

the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1098(c)), and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Norine Fuller, Arlington, Virginia.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MIAMI WELCOMES DOLE FRESH FLOWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on December 9 of this year, approximately 300 employees will move into the newly-built world headquarters of Dole Fresh Flowers in Miami's International Corporate Park.

Miami has historically been the U.S. gateway for the floral industry, since the majority of flowers for commercial use are grown just south of us in South America.

Dole entered the flower business just 2 years ago, bringing to this industry 150 years' experience in growing, shipping, and marketing fresh produce around the world.

Dole consolidated four companies into a single entity, to be housed on 17 acres of land in a state-of-the-art facility measuring 328,000 square feet. Nearly 3 million stems of flowers will pass through the facility every day during this holiday season alone.

Employees have been eagerly awaiting the move to this efficient and beautiful new home since its groundbreaking last April.

□ 2000

Miami, and indeed all of our State of Florida, is enthusiastic about having this worldwide brand Dole in our community.

Welcome home, felicidades.

PASSAGE OF FAST TRACK LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the flower company for locating in Miami, but I would like to tell my friends that the bloom is off the rose here on Fast Track coming up this Thursday.

Madam Speaker, this Thursday's vote on Fast Track is an ill-timed attempt to force a divisive issue on our Nation when we least can afford it. Last week, the United States was officially declared in recession. Job losses are skyrocketing as a result of the faltering economy and the September 11 attacks. Workers are unsure of their jobs and unsure of their futures.

Meanwhile, nothing, absolutely nothing, has been done to help these workers. The Republican leadership has blocked effort after effort to address these most important questions that affect working men and women in this country. A meaningful improvement of unemployment compensation laws, any attempt to help expand health care for those who are out of work, and any other assistance that these worker desperately need, we have tried repeatedly month after month to get the leadership on the other side of the aisle to address these questions; and nothing has come from our efforts.

What the Republican leadership has done is use every opportunity available to spend billions of dollars in corporate tax benefits at the expense of working men and women in this country. We are waging war abroad, and we are united in that; but what is happening in this country is that the leadership of the Republican Party is waging war on the workers of this country.

This push for Fast Track is no different. Our flawed trade policies of the last decade have had a devastating toll on American workers. Since 1994, three million U.S. jobs have evaporated as a direct result of our failed trade policies.

In my home State of Michigan, over 150,000 jobs have been lost. Thousands of workers around the country are struggling to keep their jobs right now. They are in danger of becoming tomorrow's job-loss statistics.

It is time we reversed this trend. It is time we woke up and dealt with the crisis that is affecting millions of American workers and their families today. No money and unemployment comp to pay for the rent, to pay for the mortgage, to pay for education, to pay for food. No resources for health care, for members of the workforce or their families.

We do not need more job losses. We do not need more corporate giveaways, and we certainly do not need Fast Track.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for organizing this important discussion which we will have a little later on this floor tonight and for his work to highlight the efforts of Fast Track will have on all of our workers, including our farmers. Madam Speaker, many farmers are already reeling from bad trade deals. It is the same tune; it is the same song every time we get one of these things. Whether it is NAFTA or WTO or China, they come and they will offer the world, they will tell people they will fix this and they will fix that;

and then the farmers, they get taken in every time on these things, not all of them. Some of them have figured it out, but the numbers prove what we have been saying all along: these trade policies are not good for our agriculture community.

I say to my colleagues, the timing of the Fast Track bill puts many U.S. farm bills in jeopardy once again, and the administration's willingness to put our trade laws on the table after the recent WTO ministerial shows our farmers have just as much to lose as every other worker in this country.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues look seriously at the proposal that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) is bringing to the floor. It is flawed. It does not deal with worker rights, environmental rights, farmer rights; and the upshot of all of this is that we will give away much of our authority and power in the United States House of Representatives and in the other body to deal fairly and adequately and substantively with trade laws that will affect not only those areas, labor, environment, agriculture, but a whole host of other areas that affect the American public.

I ask my colleagues to stand with us as we fight this ill-conceived idea of Fast Track.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OPPOSE FAST TRACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed new to this body; but I am by no means new to this issue. Prior to the great honor of serving in this body as the elected representative of the 9th Congressional District, I served as an iron worker for 18 years. I worked in the Quincy shipyard just outside of Boston. I worked in the steel mills in Michigan and Illinois, worked in United Auto Workers plants in Framingham, Massachusetts, and again in Michigan.

I have seen a lot of those jobs and a lot of those plants where I worked at one time disappear. I have seen them relocated. Good, highly skilled, well-paying jobs moved mostly to Mexico, but to other countries as well, in a race to find the lowest-paid worker and the least-strong labor standards and environmental standards.

First of all, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), as well as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) and my own predecessor, John Joseph Moakley